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THE JERUSALEM

Conquest
of the Desert
Supplement

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Cancel C-o-L Pact, Industry Tells Histadrut

TEL AVIV, Monday. — The Manufacturers' Association has informed the Histadrut Executive that, in the future, it will be unable to renew its Cost-of-Living Agreement with the Histadrut. It will consider the Agreement annulled and no longer binding on the Association.

The last quarterly Cost-of-Living Agreement was signed on September 18.

However, the Association is prepared to discuss the question with the Histadrut in the light of this decision. The Association considers the Cost-of-Living Agreement system to be out of tune with the realities of the country's economy.

The Executive, in its reply, expressed their disapproval of the Association's position.

The Histadrut will continue to insist that workers receive an allowance tied to the Cost-of-Living Index, while at the same time being prepared to meet with representatives of the association to discuss the matter.

Israel to Get \$10m. Loan From Bank of America

Formalities were completed yesterday on a \$10m. loan to Israel by the Bank of America in San Francisco. The Jerusalem Post learned last night.

Of this sum, \$6m. were loaned to the Bond Drive on account of receipts until April 1954, when the drive ends. The \$4m. balance will be a two-year loan to the Jewish National Fund.

Israel Discussing U.S. Aid to Arab States

WASHINGTON, Monday (INA). — The possibility of American grants of munitions to the Arab States is being continually discussed by Israel. Embassy officials here with the State Department, it was learned from informed sources today.

The return of Mr. Eban from home leave has given rise to fresh speculation that the Ambassador himself will take up the matter at the highest level.

It has been pointed out here that the time is most appropriate for those concerned with preventing renewed hostilities in the Middle East to refuse shipment of arms to the Arabs while they continue their belittling attitude towards Israel.

Argov Says Russia Ready To Discuss Immigration Manchester, Monday (UP).

Mr. Meir Argov, M.K. told reporters here today that there might soon be talks between Israel and Russia on the immigration to Israel of Russian Jews.

Mr. Argov, who is Chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, said that Israel is eager to have friendly relations with the Russian bloc no less than with the American bloc.

He said that the Anglo-Franco-American Declaration of 1950 guaranteeing the Israel-Arab borders "is not valid in the face of the rearmament of Arab States today."

Half Million Expected to Visit Conquest of Desert Opening Today

By MOSHE LEVIN

A half million people are expected to visit Israel's first international exhibition, the Conquest of the Desert, which is to be opened at the Convention Centre in Jerusalem at 5.30 this afternoon by President Ben-Zvi and Mr. Moshe Sharet, Acting Prime Minister and patron. It will close on Wednesday, October 14.

More than 11,000 have been invited to the Exposition by local and foreign governments, institutions and business firms who, in scores of pavilions and booths, will show how man can beat back the desert to provide more food and more living space for the world's rapidly growing population.

Five governments — Belgium, Finland, Israel, Luxembourg, and Switzerland — the United Nations, and about 200 firms and institutions from 25 nations will be represented. Mr. Alexander Ezer, Director of the Exhibition, noted that Russia had planned to be present, but withdrew shortly before the Prague trials.

After relations with Israel were resumed there was too little time for Russian firms to set up a display, but Moscow has sent documentary films which will be among the 500 to be shown continuously and free of charge in the attractive theatre built in the main convention hall.

Even before the opening, the

Israel Prepared To Meet Syrian Threat

The Syrian contention that Israel has violated the Armistice Agreement in connection with the work now in progress along the Jordan River bed in the Lake Huleh area "is utterly baseless," a Government spokesman said in Jerusalem yesterday.

It is Syria which now stands guilty of sum violation by the mere threat to use force contained in the statement of her military spokesman. Any attempt on her part to carry that threat into effect will find Israel ready to adopt all measures which the situation may require, the spokesman stated.

The spokesman continued:

For two-and-a-half years Syria offered opposition to the continuation of the work on the Huleh drainage scheme in the demilitarized zone. Her claims in this regard were rejected by the United Nations as lacking a foundation in the Armistice Agreement which, according to the rulings of the United Nations, is the basis for the work.

As a further stage in the execution of the development scheme of the Huleh area, work was commenced early in September by the Israeli forces on the digging of a canal which is to pass down to the Sea of Galilee at a certain distance from the Jordan for the purpose of generating electrical power.

Even after the completion of this scheme, which is bound to take a long time, water will continue to flow down the present river bed and the water rights of cultivators in that area will not be affected thereby. It appears that this time again, as at several previous stages in the progress of the scheme, Syria is trying to bring about a threat to the work of the United Nations.

It should be noted that one of the features of the situation in the Huleh area is the fact that the use of Arab-owned land, is completely absent on the present occasion.

Power Station Under Construction

JERUSALEM, Monday. — Scrapers and excavators have been busy since the beginning of the month on a project to build a power station in the Huleh area. The project is to build a power station of 240 kilowatts on a site of 240,000 square meters.

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Foreign Currency Budget To Next March is \$233m.

Jerusalem Post Reporter

After a protracted inter-ministerial debate, the Foreign Currency Budget for the period July 1953-March 1954, Mr. P. Sapir, Director-General of the Finance Ministry, announced yesterday, following the Budget's approval at the Cabinet meeting.

Income estimates were based on the assumption that the American grant-in-aid would be \$50m. for nine months, or \$5m. per month, or \$45m. for the year.

On the expenditure side, there appears for the first time a reserve of \$20m. for settling debts. The allocation for investment shows a total of \$10m. being \$3.5m. compared with \$2.5m. last year.

This increase is divided between investment in electric power plants and industry which receive almost double last year's amount — \$11.5m. instead of \$6m. and agriculture which has been allocated \$1.5m. compared with \$1m.

The national food basket remains practically unchanged, although expenditure on foodstuffs has risen from \$4.5m. to \$4.6m. made possible by lower world-prices, cheaper freight tariffs and increased local production of staples.

Mr. Sapir stated that the daily calorie intake per person had even risen from 2,500 to 2,600 in the current year.

The allocation for fuel has remained almost static, at \$3.1m. but spare parts and maintenance received \$1.5m. instead of \$1.2m. The sum of \$1.5m. is allocated to "services" which include the secret Defence Budget and interest on loans.

Industrial raw materials receive the equivalent of last year, \$12m. Whereas the purchase of raw material for export manufacture from exported goods, this year, the gross total earned was \$1.7m.

An alternative budget, larger by \$11m. than the first, has been drawn up to account for the possible receipt of \$11m. from Jewish contributions, invisible exports, or services.

The \$11m. increase is shared between the different sections in roughly the same proportion as Budget "A," except that the largest single item is an increase in the reserve for payment of debts.

5-Year-Olds
No solution was reached regarding financing the education of five-year-olds. A committee was appointed to study the problem.

The Government representatives to the Council for Encouraging Immigration from Western Countries were chosen, and are Ministers Sharet, Rosen, Rokach, Shapiro, and Mrs. Myerson.

The official communiqué stated: At its weekly meeting yesterday, the Cabinet discussed the Foreign Currency Budget for July 1953 — March 1954 which is to be presented to the Knesset Finance Committee for approval.

The problem of kindergarten was discussed in the light of the Compulsory Education Law.

The Cabinet approved the Government representatives to the Council for Encouraging Immigration from Western Countries.

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They are, ex-Prince Abbas Halim, a cousin of Farouk who has been arrested twice since Nagib's revolt; Karim Thabet, formerly Prime Minister; and Ibrahim Farrah, one-time acting Secretary General of the Wafd Party — arrived with their bedding at military police headquarters at Bab el Hadid near Cairo's main railway station.

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British, Egyptians Resume Suez Talks

CAIRO, Monday (AP). — Egyptian and British negotiators resumed their informal meeting in Cairo tonight in an endeavour to find a solution to the dispute over the Suez Canal zone.

The Egyptian side, dressed in civilian clothes and headed by Colonel Gamal Abdul Nasser, the Vice-Premier, called at the home of Lt.-General Sir Brian Robertson, the chief British negotiator.

Both Egyptian and British sides declined to comment when they parted tonight.

Sweeping British Concessions Seen

By JENNIE GEL LURIE
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

NEW YORK, Monday. — Middle East observers here expressed surprise at a "New York Times" Cairo cable reporting that General Sir Brian Robertson brought back approval for "sweeping concessions" to the Egyptian demands that can be expected to result in a formal solution of the long-standing quarrel within the next few weeks.

This dispatch was published on an inside page while, front-page headlines reported further arrests and trials in Egypt as evidence of the internal weakness of the Nagib regime.

The concessions enumerated in the dispatch — including the immediate evacuation of troops with no stipulation regarding their right of return in case of war, and limiting the stay of British technicians at the base to three years — amounts to complete capitulation or, as the correspondent notes, a "complete about-face by Britain."

This can only mean that Britain, with U.S. prodding, wants to bolster the Nagib Government in its hour of need, and is willing to give up the tremendous sums of money it has been pouring into Egypt to do so. It seems incredible that the British Government should make such a concession.

Mr. Lincoln White, State Department press spokesman, declined to answer a question as to whether the U.S. would make any comment on the report.

Cairo Trials To Open Saturday

CAIRO, Monday (Reuters). — Eleven Egyptian notables of the old regime are in prison here today after a dramatic midnight swoop by the military police.

At the same time, military police were posted outside the villa of Mustafa el Nahas, former Prime Minister, and leader of the dissolved Wafd Party, who, with his wife, Zeinab el Wakil, were placed under house arrest.

Police also took up positions outside the house of Hader Afifi, businessman and industrialist, and at one time chief of ex-King Farouk's Royal Cabinet.

Public Trial
The trials, starting on Saturday, will be held in public at the Revolution Court headquarters on Cairo's Giza Island in the Nile.

The first three men arrested — Ibrahim Abdel Hadi, a former Prime Minister and leader of the dissolved Wafd Party; Hamed Gudeh, vice President of the Saadist Party and one-time Chairman of the dissolved Chamber of Deputies; and Ibrahim Farrah, one-time acting Secretary General of the Wafd Party — arrived with their bedding at military police headquarters at Bab el Hadid near Cairo's main railway station.

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USSR Asks UN Ban Now On Super-Arms, Foreign Bases

Russia Main Menace
To U.S., Ike Says

BOSTON, Monday (UPI). — President Eisenhower tonight said that no sacrifice, including taxes, is too great to fight against the nations of atomic attack from Russia.

A major political speech prepared for delivery at a Republican Party rally here, Mr. Eisenhower stated that "the essence of freedom is the right to be equipped with the most terrible weapons of destruction."

He added that the "essence of American society is the dignity and freedom of the individual and the efforts of the American people to the defense of the nation."

Mr. Eisenhower pledged all efforts of the American people to the defense of the nation, and the nation to the defense of the individual.

He said, "It was the long-playing record. There was absolutely nothing new."

Churchill Needed To Break World Tension

By GEORGE LICHTHEIM
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON, Monday. — Informed circles here believe that, short of another dramatic Churchillian intervention (this time supported, instead of opposed, by Washington), there is no hope of breaking the international deadlock.

The latest American, Soviet and Chinese pronouncements on Korea suggest that the Peace Conference will be wasting its time even if it eventually meets. There was, of course, never any hope of unifying Korea, but it was thought that the Conference, while ostensibly discussing the Korean problem, might make some progress towards composing the West's differences with China.

In the British view, India's exclusion has wrecked the chances of such a development, but there is now no going back on that. The next stage will therefore be marked by a continued deadlock in Korea and by another round in Indo-China.

North Korean Pilot Delivers Mig

SEOUL, Monday. — A 25-year-old North Korean pilot made a fast and "heavy" landing with a MIG jet plane at Kimpo airfield near here today in answer to General Mark Clark's offer of \$500,000 for the pilot and his plane.

Clark's offer was to deliver a MIG jet to the Allies. He climbed out of his silver-painted plane with its red star marking on its nose, and threw down his identity discs. He smiled broadly and saluted the astonished ring of Allied pilots and ground staff who arrived on the spot, then grasped the hands of an American airman.

His was the first response to the five-months old offer which included political asylum and resettlement in a non-Communist country.

In Washington today the Air Force notified its Far East headquarters to pay the \$500,000. General O. P. Weyland, Far East Air Force Commander, was instructed to pay the, as yet, unidentified pilot \$50,000 and an additional \$50,000 for the airplane itself. (Reuters-UP)

Mrs. MacLean Goes East

LONDON, Monday (Reuters). — The Foreign Office today virtually admitted that it believes Melinda MacLean, wife of the missing British diplomat Donald MacLean, is behind the Iron Curtain.

In the first official British announcement since Mrs. MacLean's disappearance from Switzerland on September 11, a spokesman said investigation showed that it was likely she and her three children had gone to Austria and it was thought they had continued their journey "in an easterly direction."

E. GERMANS IN CAIRO
CAIRO, Monday (Reuters). — An East German delegation arrived here today to promote the exchange of goods between Egypt and East Germany within the framework of the existing trade agreement.

AFTER MIDNIGHT

Six hundred urgently needed tents for earthquake homeless arrived in Pagan last night aboard an Israeli vessel, the s.s. Mitspah, from Haifa, our Cyprus correspondent cabled. This was the biggest contribution which has yet reached Cyprus from non-British sources since the September 16 earthquake.

USSR Asks UN Ban Now On Super-Arms, Foreign Bases

UNITED NATIONS, Monday. — Mr. Andrei Vyshinsky, the Soviet delegate, today demanded that the U.N. Security Council take immediate action to prohibit Atomic and Hydrogen weapons, and to order the dismantling of military bases in foreign countries.

The veteran Kremlin spokesman put before the General Assembly a resolution which would have it that the end of the Korean war had created "more favourable conditions" for international measures to avert a new world war and recommended:

1. "Unconditional prohibition of Atomic, Hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction" with the Security Council instructed to prepare "without delay" an agreement to "ensure international control of such prohibition."

2. Reduction by the Big Five powers of their armed forces by one-third within a year, with the Security Council to convene, "within a brief time, an international conference for the reduction of armaments by all states."

3. That the Security Council "take measures for the dismantling of military bases in foreign territories, recognizing this as a most important contribution to ensure lasting peace and security."

4. Cancellation of propaganda campaigns "designed to 'stimulate hostility and hatred' which are 'incompatible with the fundamental principles and purposes of the U.N.'"

Wants Neutrals
Earlier, he declared that the Chinese Communist Government could not accept the recommendation of the Assembly regarding the composition of the Korean political conference.

He said that the Chinese and North Korean demand that the conference include neutral nations was justified, that it "must be met and cannot fail to be met." If they were not, he added, "the sovereign rights of these peoples and states would be directly infringed and this would be a great service to the enemies of peace."

Answering the recent speech of U.S. Secretary of State Dulles as well as earlier speeches in Moscow, Mr. Vyshinsky said the facts failed to corroborate what the Secretary of State had said. For example, he stated, Mr. Dulles had argued the necessity and propriety of such "aggressive organizations as the Atlantic Bloc." Mr. Dulles had also defended the Pacific treaties with Rhee and Chiang Kai-shek, if he had also spoken of offending what he said, the Soviet Premier had called the monolithism of the Soviet Union.

Accuses U.S.
The Soviet delegate charged that the absence of such "desire to help lessen international tension" was indicated last week when Mr. Dulles sought "significantly" to the Assembly to prevent consideration of a Russian demand that People's China be seated in the U.N. and that the U.S. offer "obstructive resistance" to a Korean peace conference invitation for India.

He said, "Things do not change because of the fact that the U.S. has succeeded in putting through decisions in the General Assembly which are obstructive." (Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

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POTASH KILN
GETS TO WORK
JERUSALEM, Monday. — The production of Potash started in earnest at 8.00 this week after a break of five years, when the big rotary kiln there began operating.

All the potash produced at the works thus far has had to be dried in the kiln before it is transported. The present output is 60 tons a day, or about a third of the daily target for the end of the first year of operations.

effect of the fair has had an effect on the economy of the country. A total of 600 workers employed on the grounds were provided with 60,000 work days; 1,500,000 was spent by the Conquest of the Desert Company, 40% for labour and 60% for materials and installations; and (Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

Britain Wins Three Events,
Records Fall at Maccabiah
By ARIVA KALMAN

TEL AVIV, Monday. — Before a packed crowd at the stadium here this afternoon

THE JERUSALEM POST

SEPTEMBER 18 1973

PILOT PLANT ON SHOW

By Walter Eytan

Chairman of the Board of Management, "Conquest of the Desert" Exhibition

THE land of Canaan was reputed in ancient days to be a land flowing with milk and honey, but the Biblical evidence is not entirely firm on the point, and even contemporaries seem to have had their doubts. But whatever it was 3,000 years ago and more, when we come closer to our own time, we find the country either barren or swamp, denuded of its forests and of much of its wild life, given to malaria and a variety of other fevers, the victim of its inhabitants and their goats.

When Jewish agricultural settlement started in earnest in the second half of the last century, the pioneers found themselves face to face with a task which they could never have undertaken if they had not been sustained by something more than a quixotic enthusiasm for farming. This was no ordinary "back to the land" movement, supported by public opinion and public funds; it was a Mosaic drive to rebuild a nation whose whole essence was bound up with this particular corner of the earth. There was a mystic urge behind the early settlers which it was easier to feel than to explain, and it is this urge which is still carrying us forward today to the most beautiful and fruitful conquest of all—the conquest of the desert.

Wasteland Reclaimed

"Desert" is an inadequate translation of the Hebrew *almama*, for the word "desert" suggests a Kalahari or Sahara, a great barren sandy waste, rocky and stony in part, whose characteristic feature is that it is dry, utterly dry. But *almama* means any kind of wasteland, even the wettest. Land can be waste through excess of water just as much as through a lack of it, though land that is too wet has perhaps a fairer chance of reclamation than land that is too dry.

Within living memory the area of Hadera was waste through excess of water, its approaches guarded by the anopheles mosquito which for generations had denied access to any but the most fatalistic, apathetic or foolhardy of men. The same was true of the Eneke—the valley of Jezreel and the plain of Esdraelon—where a bare thirty years ago was a pestiferous swamp. A great deal of land in Upper Galilee was "desert" in the Hebrew sense of the term, and some of it still is—though it looks as unlike the Sahara as can be and contains some of the richest soil in the country. There the trouble is stones, millions and millions of them; anyone who has seen the men of Eilat or Kfar Sadeh removing stones patiently one by one, dunam by weary dunam, has seen men conquering the desert in the true sense of the term. Their land was classed as uncultivable only in the sense that it could not be cultivated with the normal resources of the Jewish, and these included resources of the mind and the spirit.



The land was never uncultivable in any real sense of the word—only in the sense that it could not be cultivated except by taking a great deal of trouble. No one was prepared to take this much trouble until the Jewish pioneer appeared on the scene, driven by that Mosaic urge which made it seem worth while to spend years picking stones out of the ground, in the certain faith that the land could once again be made to flow with milk and honey.

Combined Effort

It was in this spirit that the pioneers of Hadera planted their eucalyptus and the farmers of Kfar Sadeh their carob. It is in this spirit today that Israel's vast desert (in the English sense of the word) is being tackled by groups of sturdy explorers. Today there is a Government behind them, a Government which can make the most of its resources, whether drawn from at home, from United Nations technical assistance, from the American TCA scheme, or from the support and investments of Jews all over the world. Today it is a combined operation, but it would still not be possible without that same profound faith which moved the early settlers seventy and more years ago.

I had the opportunity recently of spending a few days at the phosphate works south of Kurnub, where great wealth is being drawn out of the desert. There can be few regions in the world that look less promising than the Negev with its bare rocky hills and endless stony brown plain—yet there are few in which so much sheer courage and faith are being invested, that courage and faith without which Israel would not be the country it is.

Challenge and Achievement

It is this, in my belief, that justifies us in holding the "Conquest of the Desert" exhibition in our capital city. Israel has a claim in this field that can hardly be denied, if only as a microcosm or pilot plant. It is difficult to put faith or courage on exhibition; these have to be taken for granted. But in land reclamation, the draining of swamps, afforestation, irrigation and (not least) in the social organization of a pioneer economy—in these spheres and others, Israel has undoubtedly something to show. For the people of this country, however, one of the main attractions of the exhibition will

be the chance it gives them to see what has been achieved elsewhere. While Israel has been working away at her own problems, great strides have been made all over the world. The exhibition will probably show us that we have more to learn than to teach—and this apart from being a valuable incentive, is thoroughly healthy. The United Nations, through UNESCO, the FAO, the ILO, the WHO and other specialized agencies, is active all over the world in the fight to win what is probably the decisive battle of our time—the struggle to feed a population which is increasing faster than the food it needs to live. In Egypt it is said that the land which is being added yearly to the cultivable area is only one-fourth of what it should be if the population is to be maintained at its present level of nutrition. In other words, the level of nutrition (already far too low) is going down slowly, but steadily, year after year, because the population is growing faster than the land's ability to sustain it. The same is true of large sections of Asia and of many other parts of the world.

Everywhere this challenge is being met—and this is one of the things we shall learn from the exhibition that is opening today. Notable among these achievements is that of France in North Africa. If ever the word "microcosm" had its justification, surely it was in the tremendous fight of Frenchmen against the Sahara and its microcosmic Rithide Calder's book, "Men Against the Desert," published under the auspices of UNESCO, bears eloquent tribute to this struggle against a wilderness far vaster than any in Israel.

Comprehensive Survey

There is no point in attempting to describe here what every visitor to the exhibition will see for himself, but it is safe to predict that few will rest content with a single visit. It is not surprising that people will be coming from all over the world for this single event in Jerusalem, for never before has it been possible to obtain so complete a concept of the subject of which Governments, scientists, sociologists, economists, farmers and even the ordinary home politician have become so lately conscious in the years following the second world war.

From the earliest times there have originated in the quest for Lebensraum, and this has related not merely to the territorial demands of tyrants, but to the need for sheer physical subsistence. In the old days (as still today in some of the more primitive parts of the world) nomad tribes fought each other for grazing rights; war in our time, however ideological its building, derives essentially from the same basic cause. At any rate it is certain that the conquest of the desert (in the sense of *almama*) could be the greatest single guarantee of peace, and it is as such that it has

Voice of the Earth

By T. D. Kinnaman
Lay head on earth and hear
Voice from the desert drier,
Listen, where now is death,
To the voice from out the earth.
The voice that calls you like the voice of God:
"My foundations sealed in me,
I kept them all for you and not in vain.
Touch, and in vines and hills,
Magnificently my hills
Will flow with endless woods, eternal fields of grain."

becomes a main objective of the United Nations. Jerusalem is traditionally the city of peace, and not by etymology alone. Today, once again the message of peace goes forth from Zion, in the very tangible, practical way that modern conditions demand. Some see the conquest of the desert only in these tangible, practical terms—statistics, fertilizer, nutrition scales, calories, irrigation pipes, bulldozers, echoes of Malibus. But others see a wider human aim—something like the fulfilment of the prophetic vision, with each man under his vine and his fig-tree, and happiness and prosperity for all. Visitors to the exhibition will be of all kinds, but whether they are interested in the nutrition scales of modern science or in the vine of the latter day, the conquest of the desert is relevant to them both. After they have seen the exhibition, which presents the whole subject compactly, they would be well advised, whether they are from home or from abroad, to round their impressions off by going on a tour of Israel from Ramat in the north to Be'er Ora in the south and see how in practice the desert is being conquered on the ground.

Israel is the ideal framework for the exhibition, and it would be a pity to see the one without the other. All roads lead from Jerusalem and the exhibition site. After you have seen the Israel Pavilion, go out and see Israel.



Prof. S. E. CARLETON
Resident Representative in Israel of the U.N. Technical Assistance Board

and Article 56 states:

"... All members pledge themselves to take joint and separate action in cooperation with the Organization for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55."

One of the activities in which the United Nations is engaged in order to fulfil this objective of the U.N. Charter is the rendering of technical assistance to its member states. As Resident Representative in Israel of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board, which is the coordinating body for the technical assistance activities carried out by the U.N. and its affiliated international agencies, it is but natural that I should write a statement about this particular activity for "The Conquest of the Desert" Exhibition.

Since the United Nations technical assistance programme got under way in Israel two or three years ago, more than 60 experts from over a dozen different countries have visited Israel, and more than 100 Israelis have been granted fellowships for study abroad. Many of these experts and fellows have been directly or indirectly concerned with the economic and social development of the desert regions of the country. Thus, under the programme of the U.N. Technical Assistance Administration we have had a water development project which provided for the visits of several foreign experts and for the granting of several fellowships. Under the programme of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization there is the well known soil conservation and land utilization project which is headed by Professor Walter C. Lowdermilk. Of other projects especially related to the development of arid zones, mention may be made of the U.N. Technical Assistance Administration demonstration and training centre for stabilized earth construction, which has one of its experimental building plots situated in Beer-sheva, and of the UNESCO project in the field of wind-power research, which has a research unit located in Eilat.

If the phrase "Conquest of the Desert" is taken to describe, not an accomplished task but rather a programme of work which must be carried out and which has scarcely been begun, the various United Nations technical assistance projects here mentioned, can be classified as contributions to the forces of conquest. When measured in terms of money or manpower they may seem significant and when evaluated by their direct or indirect impact on the future social and economic development of the desert areas they may or may not seem important. It is still too early to judge. However, when seen as manifestations of a pioneering spirit and of international cooperation in the true spirit of the United Nations Charter, they are inspiring and fruitful signs contributing hope to our troubled world.

It is in the same spirit that I am happy to join in wishing every success to this Exhibition.

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CONQUEST OF THE DESERT

EXHIBITION SUPPLEMENT

מוזיאון תל אביב
מחצית השנייה
מחצית השנייה

RECLAIMING THE NEGEV

By Dov Joseph

Minister of Development

THE Negev, properly so-called, extends over an area of some ten million dunams, approximately half the territory of Israel. Its appearance is very that of a land that is desolate. Vast flat and rolling stretches of land broken by numberless valleys, it is practically devoid of verdure, with no flowing water and virtually no rainfall to relieve its dry and hot climate. With the majestic rift of the Arava, the impressive spectacle of the Great Makhtesh and the Raman Makhtesh, the winding deep wadis enclosed by bare mountains rising in places to a height of 3,000 feet, it stands in all its pristine beauty—a mute reproach to the centuries of human neglect that have made of it an arid waste. One of the foremost tasks confronting us is to develop it, to give it life by exploiting its in-dubitable potentialities.

Archaeological discovery, including that carried out in recent weeks by Prof. Nelson Glueck, have brought to light approximately 125 ancient settlements. They prove conclusively that the Negev once sustained a sizable population. What could be done by less advanced people in the past can be accomplished by us in this Twentieth Century. The Negev can be made to throb again with activity, to give vegetation, to create industrial products and to support human life.

Natural Resources

The primary importance of the Negev in the national life of Israel is that it can demonstrably make an important contribution to curing the economic ills of the country. So far as we now know, such mineral resources as Israel possesses are to be found in the Negev. We do not anticipate finding precious minerals like gold and silver, but deposits of phosphate, iron, copper, manganese, gypsum, barite, feldspar, coal and glass sand have already been located, and exploitation of some of these deposits has already commenced. The Fertilizer and Chemicals Company in Haifa is now producing all the superphosphate required



as fertilizer by our farmers from rock phosphate mined in the Negev.

Nor is there ground for assuming that we have already ascertained all the mineral wealth that is available. We have still to do much geological and geophysical survey work, prospecting, mapping and bore-drilling before we shall know the full extent of the natural resources of the Negev.

Benefits to Economy

It is manifest that from what we have heretofore discovered, together with the limitless natural wealth of the Dead Sea and its high concentration of potassium, bromine and other chemicals, the Negev will earn for the State millions of dollars per annum. In doing so it will strengthen our foreign currency position and improve our trade balance. In addition to the iron and copper industries which we shall set up within the next few years and the extension of our production of phosphate, potash and bromides, we plan to establish large chemical works based on the vast deposits of phosphate rock, gypsum and Dead Sea salts, all of which the Negev will supply.

In these chemical works we shall produce calcinated phosphate, sulphuric acid, phosphoric acid, phosphate salts, soda ash and other chemical products. There is a ready demand in the world market for these products, and the quantities we shall produce when the plants are fully developed will, in the opinion

of experts, earn us tens of millions of dollars annually.

Nor can one properly disregard the vast possibilities of oil production, although income from such a source must necessarily remain hypothetical until the bore-holes have actually been drilled and the oil found, and in adequate quantities. But the geologists assure us that the geological structure of the Negev (as well as of other parts of the country) is such as to afford the possibility of finding oil. The geological characteristics indicative of the possible accumulation of oil and gas, the sedimentary basins, the strata of porous permeable rocks, the reservoirs capable of carrying as reservoirs of oil, the domes or anticlines, geological and stratigraphic structural "traps" capped by impervious rocks, these characteristics the oil men seek are to be found in the Negev.

There are already six groups who have enough confidence in the prospect of finding oil in Israel to be willing to invest millions of dollars in drilling operations. They have begun their geologic, gravimetric and seismicographic surveys and are expected to be drilling for oil within about a year's time. Within several years after that we shall learn whether or not there is oil which will be able to make its contribution to the achievement of the country's economic independence.

Roads and Water

Two primary prerequisites to the development of any area are accessibility and water. There exists a rough road down the Negev through Eilat-Hatzeva to Eilat which for the most part runs close to our eastern border. We are now building a road down the centre of the Negev, from Beer-sheva to Eilat. We were able to build this road of local materials with little asphalt at a relatively low cost.

These two roads together with a short road connecting them and the excellent road to the Dead Sea recently completed will provide access and open up ready approach to most of the Negev area. They will enable us to carry by road to Eilat the potash, phosphates and other commodities we expect to export from Eilat to Eastern countries.

As regards the second prerequisite of development, water, Government has made some headway. Numerous bore-holes have been drilled and considerable information thus obtained concerning subterranean sources of water in the Negev. Water has been found in fairly large quantities in two wells—one yielding 800 cubic metres of good water per hour and the other 100 cubic metres. This exploratory boring will continue. A 12" pipe line is also being laid from the North to provide water for the township it is presently creating at Mamshit (Kurnub), and for agricultural settlements on the way. Building operations at Mamshit should begin before the year is out.

To the extent that water will be found, an effort will be made to set up several agricultural settlements on the basis of experiments made during the past few years in the nature of crops and plants which can be grown in the type of soil prevalent in the Negev. The Arava may yet provide Tel Aviv with out-of-season vegetables.

Prospects for Eilat

What can at present boast only one asset, which is considerable one—its unusual natural scenic beauty. It thrills all who gaze upon the dark multi-coloured mountain peaks round about it and the azure blue waters of the Gulf of Akaba. It will gradually be developed into a lovely tourist and holiday resort. But more important still, its situation and coastline will enable us to build at small cost a modest but adequate harbour for our export and import trade with East African countries, India and the Far East. We shall not set about doing without any delay. It will also serve as the home port of numerous Israeli fishing vessels which will bring their catch of fish from the luscious waters of the Red Sea.

The task in the Negev entails the added difficulty that we lack adequate technical knowledge and skill in mining and extracting the metal from the sea mined. This knowledge and skill our young engineers, technicians and scientists will acquire with the help of experts from abroad. We already have the nucleus of the personnel required for these undertakings in the Mahtsavi Israel and Haverat Haghasphatim in the Negev. The capital for the various developments referred to will be provided in the first instance from the Government Development Budget, but the participation of private capital will be welcomed and it is hoped that some such capital will be forthcoming.

The Negev presents a great challenge to the spirit of man. It is barren land which must be conquered and made to yield of its wealth and fruits. The record of our achievement during the last seventy years of conquering effort is ample warranty that the pioneering self-sacrificing young men and women needed for success in this apparently superhuman task will come forward and that they will not fail.

Ferguson

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PROFILE-ALEXANDER EZER

ALEXANDER Ezer, the Director of the "Conquest of the Desert" exhibition, describes himself as Israel's "Man of Exhibitions" (ish sheta'aruchoth). Indeed, in a country where many have had to turn their hands to new careers, he has made for himself a unique profession, as organizer of more than fifty exhibitions of Palestine Jewish achievement, at home and abroad. It is not an easy profession. It requires the rare combination of the visionary and the man of affairs. The poet and the businessman. Alexander Ezer is a combination of all these: the arch-type of the Zionist pioneer who not only dreams but puts his dreams into practice.

In 1928, at the age of 29, when Zionist efforts were necessarily directed towards agricultural settlement and Jewish industry employed only a few hundred workers, Ezer foresaw that there could be no stable future in the Yishuv without a fully developed industry able to supply not only the home market but also the export market. He founded the "Mikveh Ve-Ta'asia" (Trade and Industry) Association in Tel Aviv. It had its own journal in Hebrew, later in English. He organized the first exhibition of Palestine Jewish industry "Toberech Ha'aretz" in the General Zionist Club in Tel Aviv. Altogether 12 industries took part with a total staff of 300 workers, but this was the beginning of making the country's Jewish industry known throughout the world.

Young Zionist

Born in 1904 in Siberia of an assimilated and wealthy family, Alexander Ezer was a confirmed Zionist at the age of 12. At Petrograd University, where he graduated in law, he helped from the Hebrew Zionist Students' Union, at Tomsk, where he was a post-graduate



student, he became President of the Zionist Council of Siberia and representative of the Jewish Community in the Siberian Parliament (then White Russian).

When the Bolsheviks captured Siberia in 1922, he fled to China. When he arrived there, he found the ruble had been devalued and his fortune of 200,000 rubles was worth only 12. So he crossed the Soviet border by camel in 27 days and eventually made his way to Shanghai earning his living by lecturing on Russian poetry. In Shanghai he organized a Zionist Movement among the 60,000 Jewish refugees there and the following year he went on a freighter to Palestine, spending two and a half months on the journey.

After a spell of working on the roads and in orange groves, he became an editor and eventually a managing director of the Levant Fair in Tel Aviv with 2,200 participating firms from 36 countries and 600,000 visitors. Between 1924 and 1948 (with the help of the late

Shimon Yaffe, and Abraham Idelson, today A. Han, the Government Printer) he organized more exhibitions of the Palestine Industries in London, Vienna, Warsaw, Lodz, Paris, Brussels, Bari, Smyrna, New York, Cairo, Cyprus, Istanbul, Bagdad, Bulgaria and South Africa. These exhibitions had an enormous influence on the industrial development of Palestine. In fact, after the exhibition in Cairo in 1942, it was almost impossible to obtain Palestine products at home as all the firms were busy filling Egyptian orders.

In 1945 he brought out the Palestine Trade Catalogue and became director of the Economic Department of the Jewish Agency. In 1947 he was appointed Manager of the Jewish Industrial Council and in 1948, Manager and Director of Binyan Ha'oma.

The title of the exhibition was no chance decision. In Ezer's own words, "There are two battles which occupy human energies: one a battle of destruction, and the other a battle against the destructive element in nature—a battle for peace and construction. This second battle typifies Zionism, the conquest of desolation, of swamps, of disease and of death."

Alexander Ezer is a born organizer. His energy and enthusiasm which keep him active 20 hours of the day not only win the admiration but inspire direct cooperation by his assistants. Although there are no funds for overtime, his helpers, like him, do voluntary work at all hours of day and night.

Numerous obstacles have had to be overcome. The exhibition was twice delayed because of lack of funds. Private exhibitors here and foreign, did not send their exhibits on time. Many of the foreign exhibitors could not arrive until the last minutes, that demolish all the obstacles, the exhibition would take place as arranged. But Ezer never doubted.

For all his achievements Ezer is a modest man always stressing the part played by his collaborators and helpers. But, if the success of the exhibition can be attributed to any one man, it is his idealism, energy and organizing ability that have brought it about. It certainly could not have taken place without them. Thanks to him, Israel has a new industry, the making of exhibitions, which under his direction should have a fruitful future.

KENNETH L. COHEN

MEN BEHIND THE EXHIBITION

Jerusalem Post Reporter

WHILE waiting and admiring the pavilions, the first international exhibition to be held in Israel and the first to be devoted to the theme of the "Conquest of the Desert" (in Hebrew, "The Conquest of Desolation") one must pay tribute to the men whose energy, enterprise and painstaking labour have made it possible.

The exhibition is firstly a great co-operative achievement, the result of the combined efforts of Government departments, international organizations, foreign Governments and exhibitors, of administrators, planners, architects, engineers and artists; and of hundreds of skilled and unskilled Israel workers.

Israel's Foreign Minister, Moshe Sharett, the patron of the exhibition, was the driving force in securing Cabinet approval, and the cooperation of Government departments and foreign Governments and institutions for the work of erecting the exhibition.

Walter Kytan, Director-General of the Foreign Ministry, was appointed chairman of the Exhibition Executive and took an active interest in the development of the exhibition. The Executive members of the Executive were A. Idelson (Pica), Y. Dohin (Keren Hayesod), Dr. K. Ya'acobi (Treasury), I.C. Samson (Ministry of Agriculture), Dr. A. Levy (Keren Hayesod), Dr. A. Nebezhai and Alexander Ezer (Binyan Ha'oma) and Dr. Z. Zeman (Jewish Agency).

The original idea of the exhibition dates from a meeting in 1949 at which Alexander Ezer (see Profile) approached Edwin Samuel and Weidenfeld to act with him as a planning committee for the first exhibition and music festival to be held at the Binyan Ha'oma. Ezer was responsible for the building, Edwin Samuel for the music festival. This latter was eventually dropped. Various subjects were suggested for the exhibition and finally the present subject, the Conquest of the Desert, was put forward by Ezer together with Rabbi W. Gold, chairman of Binyan Ha'oma, and the British Consul in the Hon. office and the man largely responsible for securing foreign participation.

Edwin Samuel, London-born administrator and well-known writer and broadcaster, Edwin Samuel served as a Lieutenant in the First World War and from then on took a continuous and active part in solving Palestine's problems, serving the Mandatory Government in numerous administrative capacities and becoming Chief Counsel to the Jewish Agency. After the war, he was director of broadcasting and founder president of the Israel Institute of Public Administration. He also served as adviser on administrative problems to the Government.



Edwin Samuel

Edwin Samuel was one of the original responsible for the idea of the exhibition. One of his outstanding achievements was that the whole European organization was done without expending any foreign currency. Local committees, Chambers of Commerce and private donors made gifts or gave use of premises and secretarial staff. Despite many setbacks, when the exhibition had to be twice delayed due to lack of funds to complete the Binyan Ha'oma building, firms dropping out owing to lack of space, and the fact that no fewer than 200 foreign firms, mostly European, are participating in the exhibition.

Chief-architect of the exhibition is Arish El-Hanani, Russian-born, he came to Israel in the early twenties. In turn architect, theatre-designer and architect, he later devoted himself to designing public buildings including the Weizmann Institute at Rehovot. He helped design the Levant Fair of 1928, 1934 and 1938 and the Palestine Pavilion at international exhibitions in London, Paris, Brussels and New York. He also designed the outstanding artistic "The Days of Bialik" exhibition in 1928, and was responsible for the Hall for the Zionist Congress of 1951.



Arish El-Hanani

Besides being chief-architect of the exhibition, responsible for co-ordinating all the various plans, he was also in charge of the layout decoration of the main building and the Israel Pavilion a combined effort of the Government, Jewish Agency, Keren Hayesod and Pica. He stressed the special features which mark this out from all other Israel exhibitions. No mention is made of the special activities or achievements of any one of the participating bodies. There is no sectarianism or partisanship. Secondly, he has escaped from the sentimental "halutzit" of earlier exhibitions. He is proud of the fact that we have used and developed modern techniques in exhibition design, using the simplest and cheapest home-produced materials, at a fraction of the cost of exhibits put up by other countries but comparing favourably in results, and that the work has been the product of successful cooperation of a group of young Israeli architects and designers originally from countries as widely separated as England and Turkey.

He is also proud of the achievement of inexperienced new immigrant labour (largely from Persia and Iraq), obtained through the Jerusalem Labour Exchange, to supplement the skilled workers and who entered into the spirit and enthusiasm of the work.

Joint architect of the exhibition is N. Zalkind who is also responsible for the design of the Main Entrance and the Agriculture and Israel Pavilion. Also Russian-born and educated, he arrived in Israel nearly 20 years ago and is a leading private architect. This is his first experience of exhibition designing.

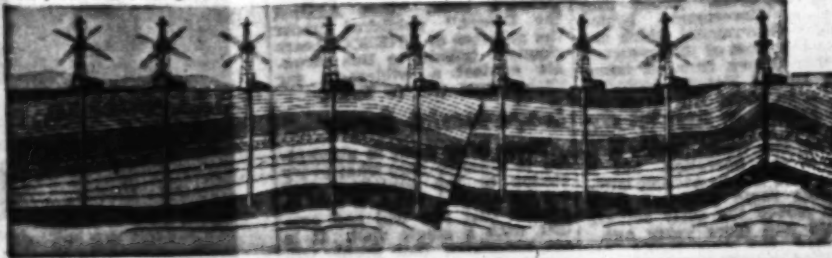
Putting the architect's plans into practice was the job of Baruch Baruch, head of the Technical Department and Chief Engineer of Binyan Ha'oma. One of Israel's leading Civil Engineers, he was born in Odessa in 1904 and came to Israel at the age of seven. In 1928, he became Executive Engineer to the Public Works Department of the Mandatory Government. He later worked for I.P.A. Refineries for a firm of contractors. He joined Haganah and later headed Binyan Ha'oma with the rank of Aman Aluf (Lieut.-Col.). He served as Chief Liaison Officer with the U.N. and, on returning to civilian life, joined the staff of Binyan Ha'oma in 1951. The exhibition, with its last-minute adjustments, has meant a lot of headaches for him. But he tackles all these problems with quiet confidence and good-humour.

The other departmental heads were A. Aharoni (Secretary to the exhibition), S. Tilkin (Works Foreman), M. Cohen (Chief Accountant) and Y. Rishin (Publicity and Public Relations). Ezer and Baruch were advisers on Public Relations.

B. Idelson designed the Building Pavilion. It would be impossible to mention all the assistant architects and others who have done an outstanding piece of work, under strenuous conditions with great enthusiasm and energy and produced a combined effort of which Israel can be justly proud.

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From the "New York Times"

The Story of Binyaney Ha'oma

By Edwin Samuel

THE story of Binyaney Ha'oma is a really long one. It began in 1949, Jerusalem was then in a bad way. It was still suffering from the effects of the siege: the city had been cut into two; the University had become a refuge; the main road to Tel Aviv was permanently cut at Latrun; the centre of Government had moved to Haifa; commerce was at a standstill; many houses were unoccupied. Few tourists or pilgrims were visiting the city under such conditions. Those that came found that the most interesting sites were on the Arab side of the front line and that access was barred to them. It was clear that something must be done to make Jerusalem again a centre of attraction.

At about this time the World Zionist Organisation decided that the next Zionist Congress—the 23rd—should be held in Israel. For 50 years, the Zionist Congresses had always been held in Europe, partly because the Ottoman and later, the British authorities in Palestine would not give permission for the Congress to be held in Palestine; partly because there was no room in the whole country large enough for this purpose. Hence the Jewish Agency decided to build one, and in order to help revive Jerusalem, it was decided to build the hall in Jerusalem. It would serve other purposes too. Jerusalem, in any case, needed a central hall; the name of Jerusalem would itself attract Jewish conferences and other international gatherings. The plan was worked out by Mr. Alexander Ezer, then in the Jerusalem Development Department of the Jewish Agency, and a separate limited liability company was set up in 1949, Binyan Ha'oma Buildings Company. Its sponsors were the Jewish Agency, the Jewish National Fund and the Jerusalem Economic Corporation.

The authorized capital of the Company is IL 500,000 of which almost 50 per cent has already been paid up. There are some 25,000 ordinary shareholders. Voting control is vested in the 25 holders of preference shares and ten holders of foundation shares, all of which are in the hands of public bodies. The chairman of the Board of Directors is Rabbi Ze'ev Gold, head of the Jerusalem Development Department of the Jewish Agency; the Managing Director is Mr. A. Ezer. The paid-up capital includes the sum of IL 100,000 subscribed by

Marshall) was commissioned to design the new building for many months owing to lack of funds. Nevertheless, the work had been sufficiently advanced by the autumn of 1949 to enable the 23rd Zionist Congress to be held in one of the foyers on the ground floor, brilliantly adapted for the occasion.



Model of the Convention Centre as it will look when completed

The first international exhibition to be held in the new building was planned for 1952; but, owing to difficulties in financing the building, it had to be twice postponed and is now being held. The main hall will be used for the opening ceremony and a whole series of evening events, even without the roof. And the foyers are being used for exhibits by the United Nations, foreign governments, public institutions, air and shipping companies, and a number of foreign manufacturers, as well as for the restaurants. The exhibits of other foreign firms and of Israeli firms are being accommodated in a whole series of temporary pavilions built around the main building. These include pavilions for the Government of Israel and the attainment authorities, for the Histadrut and the Manufacturers' Association.

It is important to finish the main building, now known as the Jerusalem Convention Centre, as soon as possible so that it may be used for the 1955 Festival of 1955, Jerusalem's next major international event. Meanwhile, the Knesset is looking for a new home. Its present quarters are cramped, and the new Beth Ha'am, at one time proposed, is little better. Hence the proposal by the Government to buy the southern part of the Convention Centre, including six floors of offices and the foyer used for the Zionist Congress which will be a debating chamber. For this the Government proposes to pay IL 715,000 to Binyan Ha'oma. Together with a loan of IL 500,000, these sums, in addition to a further mortgage of IL 800,000, should enable the southern part of the building, including the main hall, to be completed.

The Jerusalem Convention Centre is a valuable national investment. It is by no means too large. Israel is growing rapidly and, from past experience, we know that everything we planned has been too small. From Herzl Street in Tel Aviv to Haifa harbour, the Convention Centre will grow all the time. In ten years, the Convention Centre will be the centre of the city and by then perhaps already too small for its purpose.

The Igd is a non-profit making society of more than 12,000 members who subscribe anything from IL 500 as foundation members, to IL 5 down and IL 1.50 as ordinary members. In a year as ordinary members, they receive a variety of privileges in obtaining tickets for events later in the building. But both the sale of shares in the company and the enrolment in 1952 as a result of the Government's successful attempt to ease the burden of the city through heavy taxation. Hence the

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Scientists' Share in Planning New Methods of Irrigation

WATER and CIVILIZATION

By Shragai Irmay

Senior Lecturer in Hydraulics at the Technion

In practically all of its facilities and departments the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, is concerned with the various aspects of Conquest of the Desert. Yet in no field of study and research is the application to this area so marked as in the Hydraulics Division which is part of the Technion's Faculty of Civil Engineering.

Our preoccupation with water is perfectly natural. Man is made of water, just as a house is made of bricks. Two-thirds by weight of his body is water, and without it he cannot live. This history of all human history is a struggle after water, which is man's main blessing: beverage, food production, the communication, hygiene, industry and power. It is also a curse: river floods in China, sea floods in Holland, source of malaria and locust, and soil erosion in the Near East and elsewhere.

This is why man has ever been compelled to overcome this element, to harness it in his service and to defend himself from it. This dual struggle produced human civilization.

Rainfall is fickle and droughts are a periodic feature; they return once every 15 years the world over, every three years regionally. Little wonder, therefore, that the cradles of civilization are on the borders of perennial rivers: China on the Yellow and Yangtze Rivers, Egypt on the Nile, Mesopotamia on the Euphrates and Tigris, India on the Indus, Jericho, first settlement in Canaan, on the Jordan.

Warnings of History

Egypt was once a dreary bog, but the Pharaohs drained the marshes, built irrigation canals with enormous storage reservoirs (Mooris Lake in the Libyan Desert under Amenemhat III) and drains. This complex civilization built on an efficiently organized bureaucracy did not survive the shock of the Bedouin impact. Within a few decades the irrigation channels were silted, hydraulic works crumbled, and Egypt almost reverted to its archaic stage: marshes on the fringe of deserts.

The same happened to Mesopotamia: its population dwindled from 15 million under Nebuchadnezzar to less than five million at present. In the Land of Israel too, the population in 1920 was some 600,000 as against several millions under the Hasmoneans.

This is a warning as to the precariousness of civilizations based on irrigation. Yet, nowadays the prodigious increase of population and their needs for food, clothing and work have led to the development of commerce and industry are all dependent on water supply. But modern intensive agriculture cannot rely on rain or rainfall alone or man's muscles, especially in our semi-arid climate. It must exploit all scientific and technical achievements and methods: rational tilling, soil improvement by fertilizers, mechanical irrigation. The need of necessary water works is less than the damages of a single heavy drought in wheat, epidemic and mortality. On the other hand such works yield higher and choicer crops, increase land value and government income, and promote industries of by-products and services.

Power and Water

Intensive agriculture requires great quantities of water which has to be brought from afar by pipes and canals or pumped from groundwater or runoff water in rivers and lakes by means of motor-driven pumps. These require cheap power, whether thermal (Diesel) or hydroelectric (waterfall). This is why the Mediterranean-Dead Sea power scheme is favoured by engineers. Our worries about lack of power will be solved when oil is found, or when atomic energy will be cheap enough for distilling sea-water.

In Israel, 'Tahal' (Water Planning for Israel) is the semi-public organization charged with planning and carrying out the necessary water works. A considerable portion of the government budget has been allocated to that purpose.

Little wonder, therefore, that the Hydraulics Division of the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, is intimately associated with the plans. Its academic staff sits in the various planning committees or works directly with Tahal. Technion graduates are Tahal's engineers. The design of dams, spillways and hydraulic structures is based on models in

the Hydraulics Laboratory. Such models, usually on a 1:50 scale, are cheap, usually 1 to 2 % of the cost of the works, yet they enable substantial improvement and avoidance of risks in the final structures.

Joint research sponsored by the Ford Foundation is being conducted by the Technion on methods for the decrease of water losses from storage reservoirs, such as Beit Netofa or in the Jordan Valley, as well as larger efficient irrigation, border versus sprinkler systems.

Efficient use of water is the cheapest method of increasing our water supply, and metering is the handiest way of decreasing wastage. The Hydraulics Laboratory conducts research on developing cheap water meters in agriculture. Another important research project was on the use of sewage for irrigation, and the results have since been incorporated in the all-country sewage disposal scheme of greater Tel Aviv will be pumped to the Negev, and that of Haifa to the Eneke.

Scientific and technical contact is maintained with the leading hydraulic laboratories abroad and there is also personal participation in international conferences. Publications by Technion staff members in this area have likewise received international attention. At the same time, by no means least of the Technion's contributions is the training of a new generation of young hydraulic engineers - Israelis who will themselves be the builders and the experts of tomorrow.

For these reasons a new hydraulics laboratory, to replace the present small and overcrowded quarters at Hadar HaCarmel is being planned for the new Technion campus on Mt. Carmel. Thanks to the assistance of the Chicago and Midwest Chapter of the American Technion Society it is hoped that this new and enlarged laboratory will soon be a reality.



Delighted settlers watching irrigation siphons at work in their fields during a soil conservation demonstration. Photo by W.C.L.

Meteorology in Arid Zone Research

By M. Gilead

Director, Israel Meteorological Service

Two-thirds of the earth's land surface do not receive adequate and reliable rainfall, and 31% of it must be classified as hot arid or hot semi-arid where agriculture would not have been practised normally before the Second World War.

Of all the dry belts of the earth the North Africa-Eurasia belt is larger than all the remaining areas combined. More than one-third of the surface of most of the countries in this region consists of extreme arid and arid land, semi-arid land excluded. Only Turkey, Syria and the Lebanon in our area are in a more favourable position.

The constantly increasing pressure of the rapidly increasing population of the world makes it of utmost importance to try to make better use of the arid lands, to prepare arid zones for the absorption of additional population and to protect men living on the fringes of the desert from encroachment of desert conditions. This is an international problem, and the Special Agencies of the United Nations have taken up the challenge of investigating thoroughly arid and semi-arid areas in order to find out if, and how far, they are given to exploitation especially in the agricultural field. UNESCO, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) have all put up arid zone programmes in coordination with one another.

The role of Meteorology in these programmes is two-fold:

1) To investigate thoroughly the meteorological and climatological conditions of arid zones; to survey heat and moisture balance by regular and standardized observations of radiation, evaporation, dew and other condensation, in addition to the regularity observed climatological elements: precipitation, temperature and wind, and to map the whole area climatologically.

2) To give on the basis of such a detailed survey expert advice on how far climatological knowledge can be applied to agriculture, industry, town and country planning, building, sanitation, etc.

As member of the World Meteorological Organization, the Israel Meteorological Service participates in the Arid Zone Programme, and its scientific staff is working on the panels of experts of the Organization entrusted with the task of investigating meteorological conditions.

Negev Climate

The problems of the arid zones of the earth are Israel's problems. To make use of our desert and semi-desert areas requires firstly the surveying of its climatological conditions. Great difficulties have been, and still are being encountered when attempting to obtain reliable

climatic data for the mainly unsettled area of the Negev. First observations of rainfall and other meteorological elements were made at Gaza and Beer-sheva since 1920 and 1925 respectively. The station at Sdom was put into operation in 1934, and in 1945 the first observations were made near Eilat, both of these stations being operated since 1943 by the Meteorological Service together with the then Palestine Potash Ltd.

Mandate's Reports

Rainfall information from the Negev area is sparse. A great part of the knowledge on rainfall conditions which we have obtained is due to observations which were carried out at the few Police Posts functioning in the Negev during the time of the Mandate.

Immediately with the establishment of the State of Israel, plans were made and carried out as early as feasible for the setting up of climatological stations, and since that time 11 climatological stations have been erected in the area south and east of Beer-sheva under difficult conditions dictated by transport, manpower and budget. Even so, the mountainous area of the Negev south

is only a chance of 50 per cent of our instruments to survive one single rainy season.

For the construction of water preserving installations and for all planning of irrigation, the knowledge of evaporation from the soil and from water surfaces is of extreme importance. Theoretical work of computing potential and actual evaporation has been conducted in our Service since a number of years; observations of the evaporative power of the atmosphere are being carried out at all climatological stations of the Negev. The first experimental evaporation tank in the Negev has been set up in Eilat at the beginning of September, 1958.

The strong and steady wind blowing in the southern part of the Arava is being investigated by the National Research Council of Israel with a view to using wind for generating power. If these investigations show positive results, this meteorological element will contribute considerably to the prospects of continuous settlement.

Temperature, Ventilation

From a point of view of human comfort, the climate of the Negev area is not unified. Whereas the area north and west of Beer-sheva has a very favourable climate if compared, for instance, with that of the coastal plain, the eastern and southern parts of the Negev, with their very high maximum temperatures combined with strong winds, impose a considerable strain upon the heat regulating capacity of the human body. For these areas, the solution of problems of indoor climate becomes of the utmost importance requiring the coordinated efforts of climatologists, engineers and physiologists. A number of measurements have been carried out by different research workers to test the conditions of temperature and ventilation inside rooms which are differently exposed, built from different material or where different construction of roofs, shading devices, shutters etc. have been used.

A last word should be added to the question of artificially changing the climate. We are today of the opinion that no natural climatic changes have occurred in this area since historic times. We all know what the production of artificially induced precipitation would mean for the Negev. It should, however, be understood that in the present state of science, rain can only be artificially induced under favourable cloud conditions. The number of occasions with favourable cloud conditions in our arid zone is, unfortunately, very small.

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RAIL, ROAD AND PUBLIC

By Haim Razily

Director General, Ministry of Communications

When first my way to fair I took,
Four paces in pursuit had I
And long I used to stand and look
At things I could not buy.
—A.E. Housman

We are a poor people, poor as only those who must depend on others for their very essentials can be. But our habits and needs are of those who were born rich.

Ours is a small country, inhabited by a people with great aspirations and ideas, a small one as yet primitive country called upon to supply the needs of a modern, highly cultured and civilized society.

Our farmers do not use the camel, the ox or the donkey, all of which were bred here from time immemorial, and who demand no fuel from Venezuela or spare parts from the U.S.A. Our farmers are using the tractor and the truck and the bus. Farmers using a horse or a donkey do not, as a rule, form part of our landscape, nor does the traditional farmer's cart and family. Instead you will see him drive a huge lorry for a short pleasure ride to his next-door neighbour, or else you will find him, standing patiently at the roadside waiting for the next bus to come along. It becomes very irritated and vexed if the bus is late or over-crowded, or when the fare seems to him too high. In town you will see people standing a long time in a queue in order to travel standing and in utmost discomfort a distance of perhaps five minutes walk.

Five-Year Plan
Can our railway become a big passenger carrier and successfully compete with the bus and car? The answer is in the affirmative. But some hard work must be done first. A five-year plan has been worked out to make the railway a useful and reliable tool for both goods and passenger traffic. On completion of this period, our railways should also become self-supporting and cover all their expenses, including maintenance and renewal of stock. We have still to struggle hard for the allocation of funds, but if we succeed we shall change the habits of our travelling community, and make the people of Israel railway-minded instead of road-minded. Fast and frequent railcars will cover the distance between Haifa and Tel Aviv in one hour and a quarter. Tel Aviv-Jerusalem in one hour and three quarters, and Jerusalem-Haifa in about three hours. Railcars will also run between Tel Aviv-Lydda and Ramle and between Haifa-Nahariya and Acre.

Railway stations will be centrally located and easily reachable. Trains will be comfortable, and fares reasonable. There will be no reason then for anyone to prefer any other service on these lines, not even the private car-owner who will be provided with a parking place for his car in vicinity of the railway station.

Transport at Door
The smallest village in Israel must have its public transport at its very door, preferably more than once a day, otherwise it lodges complaints, it will protest to the authorities, write to the papers and, of course, to party secretaries and agricultural institutions.

But tractors, lorries, buses, as well as the fuel and spare parts they consume, must all be imported from abroad and paid for in foreign currencies which we have not got. Can we change our people's habits? Can we teach them to travel less and walk more, to rely less on the motor engine and more on the heat of their own bodies? I do not know. All I can say is that it would do us a world of good and would save us a lot of trouble and some precious foreign currency too.

Our transport cooperatives have tried hard for years to make travel in the country as tiresome as possible, and they have certainly induced a few more citizens to buy their own cars.

Overcentralized Service
In the meantime we are doing our best to keep the wheels rolling, while everybody is travelling to and fro, complaining about the poor quality of transport provided. There can be no doubt that much better and more efficient service could be had from the rolling stock in our possession, had our public transport been more conscientiously managed, and had our cooperatives been more public-spirited.

What we need at present is not so much an increase in the number of motor vehicles on the road as a thorough overhaul of our entire passenger transport system and a change in the structure and management of our public transport which has been overcentralized and overmonopolized. We shall have no public transport worthy of its name until this is changed. It would be a good thing if our municipalities would take a more active interest in the transport of their towns and acquire financial control of the undertakings.

For many and varied reasons our railways never counted as a competitor for passenger transport, and people got used to the idea that they



One of the modern railcars to be used here

could only travel by bus or taxi. All the burden of the traffic thus fell on our road services, while the railway was standing by helpless. Its stations were too far away from the main traffic centres, its locomotives too slow and the trains badly equipped and unreliable. But if they were properly laid out and equipped, there is no reason why our railways should not be in a position to give a faster, cheaper and far better service than any of the existing means now available, including cars.

Moreover, if the railway could come in as a serious factor in passenger transport and lighten considerably the burden of the road, our road transport too would most likely benefit, especially where interurban traffic between the main cities is concerned.

First Step

As a first step, it is intended to complete the line to Aris-sod Street in Tel Aviv by the end of March 1954, when, pending the arrival of the new and modern equipment now being ordered, a one to two hour service will be introduced between Tel Aviv and Haifa with the existing rolling stock. This will be a small beginning, but let us hope the rest will follow in due course according to plan.

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Re-Conquest of Scientific Farming Methods To Correct Ancient Mistakes

By Walter C. Lowdermilk

Head of Agricultural Engineering Department,
New Institute of Technology

DRAMATIC events of history have been enacted on the stage that is the land of Israel; no less are the significant changes in human geography. In few places of the earth is there such a steep gradient in rainfall over a distance of 450 kilometres — from Mt. Hermon to Eilat.

Rainfall on Mt. Hermon and Northern Galilee is more than 1,000 mm a year, much of which comes forth later, in perennial springs; while at Eilat it is no more than 50 mm. Extremely small discharge of springs in the far south is a measure of low natural recharge of local ground waters. Other factors follow this steep gradient of climatic difference, except for the occurrence of dew, about which we still know too little.

Ancestral Lessons

One of the most amazing facts of history of this part of the world — a fact which historians have so often overlooked — is how the ancients, first the Nabateans, then their successors up to the Moslem invasions, made the most of the rains that fell and of storm waters that rushed down the wadies. The people of Israel have much to learn from these ancients, surely as much from what is written in the land as is written in books — perhaps more. This is a record we can expect archaeologists and soil conservationists to decipher for us.

But strange as it may seem, I found few archaeologists in my studies of this part of the world in 1958-59, when much interest in the agriculture that supported cities, whose ruins they had excavated or were excavating. There were three notable exceptions, namely the late Sir Flinders Petrie, the Dean of Archaeologists, the late distinguished Col. P.L.O. Ouy, and the famous Dr. Nelson Glueck, whose work we have the good fortune to have with us today. It was with Dr. Glueck in a field survey of some parts of Trans-Jordan and in his excavations at Eilat

Gether that I found him to be the type of archaeologist who can be the most helpful in reconstructing our conceptions of how these ancients managed to do as much with so little water. For the evidence does not indicate that they had any more rain to work with than there is today.

Detective Methods

Harried and inadequate methods of land lay-out and protection still in the large part of Israel, as imposed by a great influx of immigrants that must be settled, are crude in comparison with the refinements which the Nabateans had worked out in the wilderness of Zin.

Except for strategic reasons, it does not make much sense to go to great expense to reclaim small tracts of saline soils of the Southern Negev (south of Beersheba) when some of the good soils where rain can be washed away from under established settlements, to undermine their future economic status. More the pity; because these good soils where rain can be washed away from under established settlements, to undermine their future economic status. More the pity; because these good soils where rain can be washed away from under established settlements, to undermine their future economic status.

Lesson from the Past

A lesson from these remarkable works of the Nabateans, and those who followed their expert ways, teaches us how population pressures had grown to such a point that thrift and economy in using water and land had become very exacting. The stable (for centuries) and uniform rule of Rome and Byzantium over the entire region had let people move about with profit by their industry and thrift. Effects of this pressure on the land show up in records in the land. Along the road from Ramat, one may now see remains of rather crude terraces, made with stones roughly piled along contours. These were small terraces. Many are not more than a metre wide and a few metres long, and they occur up to crests of slopes.

It took hard work, then, as it would now, to build these terraces. Rewards in crops from such small plots of unirrigated land were small for the necessary work. Food cost a lot of hard work for most of the people of that day.

If population pressure in Byzantine times was great enough to induce so much work to grow food in the foothills a two day journey on foot from Jerusalem, it is easier to understand these refinements of the ancients in developing and conserving water

Man-Made Desert



Example of broad-base contour ploughing at Eilat, Herod.

In the southern Negev. Apparently need of the productive land of the country was farmed.

History may repeat itself in this region. The Nabateans, we are told by Dr. Glueck, before the Roman conquest were confined to the dry lands of what is now southern Trans-Jordan with Petra as their capital. As their populations grew it is apparent that they were intelligent enough and thrifty enough to improve on ways of conserving and using water of the rains, in response to growing needs. They may well have been a solution to the problem. For there is no time to lose.

Israel is known as the land of prophets in spiritual and historical insight. This land of the Bible may well become a model in soil conservation by contour farming and integrated use with conservation of resources in growing foods and raw materials to supply needs of a modern society, for the people and for its industry, and for a lasting future.

Come Shovel Back the Sand

ANY time the Chief Forestry Officer is of the opinion that sand has drifted, or is likely to drift, over land available for cultivation, he may call upon the landowners or neighbouring taxpayers to cooperate with the Government in carrying out such work as may be necessary to stop the drift or to reclaim land, according to the Sand Drift Ordinance which has been in force since August 1, 1952.

The law provides that if any responsible person declines to cooperate and his land is covered by sand, his interest in the land will be forfeited and vested in the State.

The Chief Forestry Officer, in summoning a meeting of taxpayers of the village adjacent to the land affected, must explain the nature of the drift and the work to be done. Where at any such meeting it is resolved by a majority of not less than

two thirds of the taxpayers present that the work of checking the sand drift or the reclamation of land covered by sand shall be undertaken by the village, every male inhabitant over the age of 15 years is liable to contribute each year a number of days labour, not exceeding six, at such work as may be required for the purpose of any work he directs to be done, or to the sum of 300 prutas (sic) in respect of each day on which he has failed to do, or provide, the labour. Any land thus reclaimed or any shrubs or trees planted, will be applied for the benefit of the inhabitants of the village which carried out the work, subject to any arrangement made with the proprietors and instructions of the Chief Forestry Officer. All lands in respect of which work has been executed will be deemed to be forest reserves.

and evaluating new species is slow, but already we have eliminated many of the species and are concentrating on the most promising ones. Seeds of trees suitable for the Akaba Valley with less than 50mm. rainfall have been obtained from the Sahara, the Sudan, India, South California, Mexico, Australia, while trees for the north of the country come from districts and countries with higher rainfall.

Economic Aspects

Once the suitable trees are found, part of the battle is won, and the desert starts receding. The cost of establishing a plantation in the country is not too high, and as our use of lumber per capita exceeds that of many European countries, we hope that by turning eight per cent of the country into forest land, we shall be able to supply about one third of the country's need of timber and wood products.

Yearly imports of wood amount to approximately 400,000 cubic metres of timber. By managing properly 100,000 dunnams of forests it is expected that eventually we shall reach an annual timber output of 125,000 cubic metres.

While one of the objectives of afforestation is to produce timber, successive and systematic planting turns one barren hill after another into a green carpet and forces the desert back to its original boundaries.

Agriculture: Settlers Grow Their Own

By Haim Gvati

Director-General, Ministry

A formidable task confronted the new State of Israel when it took over the country five years ago. Land under cultivation by Jewish settlements amounted to some 600,000 dunnams and it was a crying necessity to speed up cultivation and produce more food in order to meet the needs of the settled population as well as the tidal wave of immigrants which began to pour into the country at that time.

Looking back, it may be said that agricultural cultivation and progress in these five years is one of the finest achievements of the State. There are today some three million dunnams under cultivation; another 600,000 in the hands of Arab farmers who are continuing their work; about 2,400,000 dunnams which were formerly cultivated by Arabs with primitive methods had to be converted to rational cultivation in order to restore their fertility and increase their yield.

In addition, it was necessary to expedite the settlement of tens of thousands of new settlers, to build houses and farms, to lay pipe irrigation projects, to initiate the conversion of the farms with livestock and implements.

Making Farmers

It should be remembered that these new settlers were not farmers by training or tradition. Indeed, the great majority of them had never done any physical labour. It was necessary to hasten and convert these masses of newcomers, hailing from different backgrounds and cultures, into farmers tilling their soil and bringing forth their daily bread from the sweat of their brow.

It is doubtful whether a settlement experiment on such a scale and under such conditions has ever been undertaken in any other place in the world.

It is no mean achievement, therefore, that agricultural production has risen by 20 per cent since the establishment of the State. Yet, even so we are still far from being able to meet our own needs. But facing the fact that we produce at present only 60 per cent of the food we need (in monetary value), we must always remember that the development of the new settlement project is still in its infancy and that only part of it has thus far entered the realm of systematic production. The many investments made to date in agriculture will bring returns only in the coming years.

Agricultural production development falls into a number of main phases. At first, efforts were directed towards arriving quickly at a stage of full cultivation of those tracts which had been left uncultivated for lack of owners; to plough and sow all cultivable areas; to prepare others for cultivation, and to step up crop yields in the more cultivated areas.

By using tractors and the most modern equipment, all these areas were given a deep ploughing, fertilized for the greater part with chemical fertilizer; and in some of them correct seed rotation was introduced. Thanks to these measures, the past year has witnessed a great increase in grain crops in areas not hit by the drought. The areas where new settlements have been established are already being cultivated by the settlers on the spot, while unsettled areas, especially in the Negev, are undergoing temporary cultivation by farmers from other zones on instructions by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Naturally, the damage inflicted on the land over the course of centuries by way of irrational cultivation, soil erosion and unwarranted exploitation cannot be made good in a few years. But even during the past two or three years, we have seen that given rational cultivation and the tendency to return to the soil at least a part of the materials that have been taken from it, positive results can be attained.

Impact of Irrigation

Hand in hand with the policy of intensive cultivation, came the second phase which is of the utmost importance to agricultural development — the increase of areas under irrigation. No plan for large-scale agricultural production, meant to assure our food supply, can succeed unless we are able to irrigate most of the irrigable zones. When the State came into being, there were 200,000 dunnams of irrigable land which included 130,000 dunnams of citrus plantations. Since then, much has been achieved in the development of water resources, and at the same time, in the expansion of areas under irrigation. The result is that we are now approaching an irrigated area of 600,000 dunnams. Since the citrus area has grown but little during the interval (30,000 dunnams at most) the additional areas under irrigation are earmarked mainly for the production of food. Thus, we have now arrived at a sufficient supply of vegetables and fodder for livestock, and we are seeing the beginning of the development of oil and sugar crops.

However, this is not enough. The need to arrive at a self-sufficient food supply dictates the introduction of new crops, besides the production of milk, eggs, vegetables, fruits and fish — with which our farmers have been almost exclusively engaged until now. First and foremost, are the oil yielding crops of which the best suited for our conditions is the groundnut which yields the richest oil, 300-400 kgs. per dunnam under irrigation, as well as sugar beet, particularly the sugar beet which we have been cultivating in the past two years and which gives high yields with a high sugar content. Special attention has been given to the cultivation of fodder under irrigation for the livestock as well as to the production of foods with a high albumin content.

While the unirrigated areas supply an appreciable quantity of the necessary seed, they have not yielded the amount necessary for consumption; it has been decided therefore to develop special kinds of corn for seed under irrigation, and to develop a species of hybrid corn whose growth we have been stimulating. Work is also afoot to increase the cultivation of the carob which will provide more food for livestock.

Of special importance is the export of fresh and processed vegetables which we are able to produce in substantial quantities. In connection with this, the Ministry of Agriculture, through the cultivation of special kinds of vegetables suitable for export or processing. There is good reason to expect that our agricultural export, which for the present is limited to citrus, will expand and include many other kinds of products the cultivation of which forms an important part of our agricultural planning.

Pastures and Flocks

One of the great difficulties in our food supply is the deficiency of animal albumin. We have made good progress in milk and egg production, but we are still far from full supply, and this is mostly felt in the dearth of meat and fish. Our land is not favoured with natural conditions for meat production, but we must exploit all existing possibilities.

In addition to the 2,000,000 dunnams at present suitable for cultivation, there remain about two million dunnams of good pasture land. These areas have been partly ameliorated since the birth of the State, after many Arabs and their predatory goat herds had left the country. Much of the land has suffered from over-grazing, which reduced it to a very poor state.

Today the position is different. The systematic improvement of most of the areas which can still be reclaimed has begun, and tens of thousands of head of cattle who will yield large quantities of meat will be raised. Several hundred head of pedigree Hereford cows have already been brought into the country, and the rearing of local pedigree calves for milk has also begun. The experiments have proved successful, and there are prospects that within the next few years cattle breeding for meat can be developed on a large scale.

To date, we are supplying only one third of our needs in fish, half through pond culture and half by sea fishing, but every effort must be made to develop the latter. This is a matter of

Cotton and Flax

Two fibre plants, cotton and flax, have been introduced experimentally into our agricultural economy. These are intended not for food production but as raw materials for our industry. The success of the experiment opens up prospects for the expansion of these branches of cultivation.

An important experiment on a large area is in progress in the Negev for the cultivation of the agave whose fibres are used for the production of cord and rope. A cactus oil plant too will soon be placed into operation following a series of tests and experiments. In addition, efforts are now being made to expand production of crops suitable for export, such as the quota needed for local requirements is met.

The natural conditions of the country make possible the output of a number of agricultural products for which markets can be found abroad, either permanently or seasonally. From export experiments which have been carried out so far on a modest scale, we know that there are good prospects of selling appreciable quantities of vegetables and fruits in winter, and tomatoes, onions, potatoes, bananas, subtropical fruit, vegetable preserves, wine, flowers and flower bulbs in the early spring.

Export Possibilities

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the safray gallery
66 Jaffa Rd., Jerusalem
presents
AN EXHIBITION
of works by various Israeli Artists, at the "Conquest of the Desert" Exhibition.

Trees Provide Timber, Protection

By Amibud Y. Goor

Director, Forestry Department

WHEN the Israelis, led by Joshua, crossed the Jordan and climbed to the hills of Judea, they encountered the first forest of the Promised Land. Kiriath Yearim (The Forest City) near Jerusalem was one of the many biblical names that indicated the existence of forests in the country. The migration of different nations into the country, and the armies that passed through it in the course of the centuries, caused the devastation of all these forests and left only traces of them in the form of scrub forests on some of the hills.

Since the establishment of the State of Israel, however, the fellah who used a great deal of fuel wood, and his goat that almost completely denuded the destruction of the native vegetation, have decreased in number to such an extent that many areas which until recently were completely denuded of vegetation, are now, in the short span of five years, again covered to some extent with natural vegetation. But a great deal remains to be done in order to convert the denuded areas which have no natural vegetation into forest. Only rocky areas on steep slopes which are not suited for agriculture are set aside for afforestation with the object, not merely of soil conservation, but stream flow control and other amenities which a forest offers, but mainly for producing wood.

Millions of Trees

There are about ten million dunnams in the country north of Beersheba; of these about 600,000 dunnams are set aside for afforestation by the Government Department of Forests, and about 300,000 dunnams by the Jewish National Fund; a total of 900,000 dunnams or eight per cent of the country's area excluding the Negev.

More than 100,000 dunnams have already been planted and about 30,000 dunnams are planted yearly. Although windbreaks and roadside planting are not considered "forestry", yet these trees produce timber besides their scenic value and their effect on reducing wind erosion. Over 700 km. of roadside trees and shelterbelts have already been planted in this young country.

There are about 150,000 dunnams of coastal sand dunes in the country. Part of these dunes are set aside for urban areas, but the greater part, now completely denuded of vegetation, constitutes a threat to fertile coastal plains. These dunes also form part of the general afforestation plan of the country.

Tree planting by other agencies must not be ignored: schools, police stations, hospitals, Army camps, settlements, individual farmers and landowners — they all are contributing to an increased tree population of the country.

Taking it all in all it will not



The tree "nursery" at Ilanot. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together. Isaiah 41, 19

be long before the country, which only a few years ago looked barren and desolate, will turn green. Already the traveller can notice many of the hills along the roads with the young seedlings showing their heads between the rocks.

It is with great care that trees are selected for planting. Nurseries, run by the Government, produce about 8,000,000 plants a year. Part of these are planted by the Government on State land, and the rest are issued free. The J.N.F. produces about the same amount for its own purposes.

Every district has its problem, as trees must be selected to suit the soil and the climate.

The tree, if possible, must also be of some commercial use. For this purpose, an Experimental Station was established five years ago at Ilanot in which hundreds of different species from different parts of the world, mainly desert and semi-desert areas, are grown and planted in test plots all over the country.

The process of introducing

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The Palestine Jewish Colonization Association (PICA)
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PICA, a non-profit making institution, continues the work of colonization and development initiated by the late Baron Edmond de Rothschild in 1882. The Baron and PICA were the pioneers in marsh drainage (Kibara, Metulla, etc.) the plantation of eucalyptus trees for drainage purposes and systematic afforestation (Hadera, Peta, Tikva, etc.), sand dunes fixation (Caesarea), afforestation to prevent soil erosion (Tiberias, etc.), and introduced into the country "the grapefruit, the tractor, Cavendish banana, clover, Dutch cows, Leghorn poultry, etc.

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Housing: New Towns and Settlements

Countrywide Development Planning for Better Living

By David Zaslavsky
Director of Housing Department,
Ministry of Labour

THE question of permanent housing for the new immigrant is one of the State's outstanding problems, and no effort that will lead to a speedy and effective solution must remain untapped. Without it the healthy integration of the newcomer into the social fabric and the economy of the State is impossible, for the lack of a home, however primitive, paralyzes the natural desire to strike root and to participate in the development of the country. Large groups of immigrants living in overcrowded or similar encampments will always stamp the place they live in with a note of instability and constitute cells of ferment and dissatisfaction. Children and youth in particular cannot be trained to good citizenship under such conditions.

The problem was tackled ever before hostilities ended, when thousands of flats were set aside for the purpose in the abandoned

towns and villages. But these were all taken over before long and the acuteness of the problem still remained.

Up to the autumn of 1948, activities were concentrated in the hands of the Jewish Agency and "Amidar," a company especially established for this task, which centralized all relevant bodies—the Government, the Jewish Agency, the Jewish National Fund, and the principal housing companies.

Amidar's Activity

Amidar succeeded in setting up 14,000 housing units during the period under consideration, most of them of durable material and only a small number built of wood. Even this, however, was far from solving the problem in the face of ever increasing waves of immigration.

Amidar worked mainly near existing urban centres, and developed most of the public-owned lands in these areas. The erection of hundreds of thousands of units cannot however be carried out without a State-sponsored programme, and

any such programme had to divert newcomers to the unsettled areas in which large financial investments had been made.

Countrywide Planning

On the emergence of the State, there were in the country six Jewish and mixed towns: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Tiberias, Safad, and Petah Tikva. There were, in addition, fourteen settlements that have become, or will one day become, towns.

The Ministry of Labour, from the very start, set out to plan the distribution of the tens of thousands of new immigrants throughout every part of the country and drew up a comprehensive programme which included every existing town and townlet. The plan allowed for the absorption of immigrants from the point of view of each settlement's economic, security and political structure. An important part of the programme allowed for the founding of new towns, villages and suburbs throughout the country.

In accordance with this scheme, the Housing Section began to work in the six towns and 14 settlements and, in addition, in six abandoned towns and eight villages, 30 small settlements and cooperative villages, 22 new provincial towns and five residential quarters and suburbs. Approximately 100,000 housing units have been planned for these areas comprising a total of 70,000 dwellings, industrial and commercial zones for 30 settlements on an area of 12,000 dunams.

Sanitary installations were introduced into 60 settlements, while a central sewage system was installed in 20 of them which are of a distinctly urban character. Great efforts are being made by the Ministry of Labour to utilize waste water for agricultural purposes, and in some places like Beer Sheva and Yokneam these efforts have been crowned with success.

One million Pounds has been invested in 85.5 kilometres of asphalted roads, laid by the Ministry of Labour in urban areas, where the need was imperative. Another 400 km. of new roads have been surveyed and planned.

Eight New Towns

Hand in hand with these activities, the foundation has been laid for eight new towns. Eleven small settlements which when the State was founded had only a few score inhabitants, have now each become an urban centre with a population of thousands. Fourteen abandoned towns and villages which were settled by immigrants are slowly becoming civilized areas where the Ministry of Labour is doing its utmost to create new sources of livelihood and set up public institutions and services.

Still much remains to be done in this field as in so many others.

and the Amakim: 83.3 per cent in Central Israel (Haifa to Hadera); 48 per cent in Jerusalem and the Corridor; and 21.7 per cent in the South and Negev.

The influence on the distribution of population is revealed by a comparison of figures of May 14, 1948 and September 30, 1952. In 1948, the Jewish population of 643,963, was distributed as follows: 5.1 per cent in Galilee and the Amakim; 24.4 per cent in Central Israel (Haifa to Hadera); 12.7 per cent in Jerusalem and the Corridor; and 63 per cent in the South and Negev.

The year 1952 shows an altogether different picture: 8.9 per cent in Galilee and the Amakim; 25.1 per cent in Central Israel; 12.4 per cent in Jerusalem and the Corridor; and 3 per cent in the South and Negev. Total population at the end of September 1952 was 1,144,740.

Water & Communications

Polidimensional development activities have accompanied the implementation of this programme. In 61 different settlements, three million Pounds have been sunk into the utilization of water resources yielding 30 million cubic metres per year, 17 pumping stations and 19 reservoirs with a capacity of 20,000 cubic metres. In addition, a water supply network installed in all these settlements serves 27,000 housing units, among them 12,000 auxiliary farms on an area of 12,000 dunams.

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Links with Past

In the Negev

ANYONE concerned with the antiquities of the Negev must be baffled by the fact that this wilderness, full as it is of remnants of a richer past, is an utter blank in written history. Between the Books of Genesis and Exodus and Allenby's campaign, the rich and ancient cities of the Negev figure only on Roman road-maps, like the "Tabula Peutingeriana," in Byzantine route-descriptions, and are fleetingly mentioned in medieval war-history, when Saracens or Franks slipped through the Negev, because the coastal road was blocked to them.

The fact that the Turco-Egyptian border commission ruled their straight line from the Wadi Mir' Taba, and not some miles to the West deprived Israel of Kadesh Barnea, the oasis of Kadesh, where the Twelve Tribes spent 40 years in the wilderness, until the new generation was deemed worthy to enter the Promised Land. The spring Ain Kadis, preserving the ancient name, is barely 10 kilometres west of the border. Thus, instead of a kibbutz settled Be'Ein, through the hills far Kadesh Barnea, whose old water tanks were restored by Jarvis.

Commandos' Road

Kadesh Barnea was, and is, a half-way inn on the Darb el Bihur, the "Road of the Fathers" which leads from Egypt to Hebron, the same road which Israel commandos used for their surprise attack on the Egyptians at El Auja. On our side, this ancient caravan route is dotted with the ruins of trade-posts which flourished in the bronze age and again in the late Roman-Byzantine period. El Auja, the old Nitzana, is just east of the border as Kadesh Barnea lies in the west. Proceeding on the now obliterated trail, we find Raheiba, the Biblical Rehovot, with its tremendous 800m. deep well, which Isaac dug, far enough from the coast not to be bothered by the Philistines.

Khalasa, 10 kilometres westward, was a Byzantine town of traders and weavers, who unravelled Chinese silk and re-wove it with linen into cheaper merchandise, suitable for Europe. Beer Sheva, of course, is rich in Biblical memories. The antiquarian, however, travelling along the Road of the Fathers, will be bitterly disappointed. Old Beer Sheva, Khalasa and Raheiba were destroyed during the 19th century, when there was a building-boom in Gaza. Nicely squared Byzantine blocks had the trade-name "Khalasa-stone" and were taken away in caravans of hundreds of camels. Only some sculptured stones in the little museum remind the visitor of ancient Beer Sheva which, after all, was not a town site in the days of the Bible, but a watering place of nomads, outside the walled town.

None of these five towns had less than 20,000 inhabitants, and each of them was surrounded by villages which grew enough wheat and vegetables to feed citizens and passing caravans. The recent discoveries of Jean Perrot pushed the history of agricultural settlement in the Negev far back into Chalcolithic pre-history.

But for the Bible, the whole history of the Negev would be prehistorical, as far as written documents are concerned. This enormous triangle was always the link between Egypt and Syria which everybody had to pass by where nobody came to stay—excepting those who made a living out of the passers-by: the traders and customs officers in the towns along the road, the manufacturers and their workmen in the same towns, and the farmers who supplied food to the towns and to travellers who had to stop there for re-victualling and for watering from the large storage tanks. No wonder then that all travel-guides of old carefully note the Negev cities, but none of the historians had anything to say about them—nothing ever happened there.

This will change now. For the first time in history people have come to the Negev to stay. It is no overstatement to say that the prehistoric age of the Negev ended with the foundation of Rehovot and the conquest of the War of Liberation.

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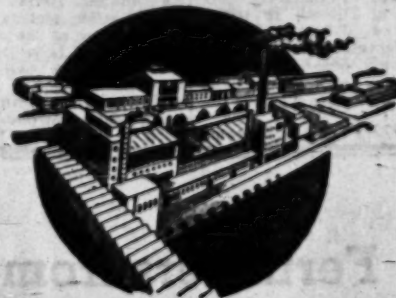
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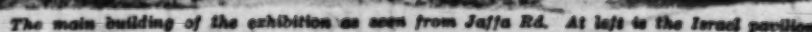
By Moshe Levin

The passage from Deuteronomy, "A land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills the mayest dig brass" is the introduction to the section on minerals and industry. Placed on long tables are multi-coloured rocks brought up from the Nevgev and arranged beneath a grand mural. Out of the rock before you come copper, iron, manganese, gypsum, marble, asbestos, salt, asphalt, etc.

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EXHIBITION PROGRAMME AND GUIDE

Tuesday, 22.9.1953, at 8.30 p.m.
"SACRED SERVICE"
 by Dariusz Hildebrand
 Kol Israel Orchestra (in conjunction with the Police Band)
 Kol Zion Lagola Choir
 Conductor: H. Friedenthal
 Soloist: J. Blumberg (Baritone)

Wednesday, 23.9.1953, at 8.15 p.m.
"IN THE TEMPLE OF THE EAST"
 Oriental Music and Dance by Groups from Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, Yemen and Persia
 Directed by Y. Ben-Israel
Friday, 25.9.1953, at 8.15 p.m.
"YOUTH CONCERT"
 The Gaden Symphony Orchestra
 (By arrangement with the Min. of Education & Culture)
 Conductors: A. Golbraun, E. Lustig

Saturday, 26.9.1953, at 8.15 p.m.
"THE GADNA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA"
 (By arrangement with the Min. of Education & Culture)
"ASCENT TO JERUSALEM"
 A programme presented by the Bar Akiba Youth Organization
Sunday, 27.9.1953, at 8.15 p.m.
"CALL OF THE LAND"
 A programme presented by the K.E.L.

Tuesday, 22.9.1953, at 8.30 p.m.
"MUSIC OF THE NATIONS"
 Kol Israel Orchestra (in conjunction with the Police Band), Kol Zion Lagola Choir
 Conductors: G. Singer, Denise D'Ambrosi

Wednesday, 23.9.1953, at 8.15 p.m.
"MACABIAH DAY"
 Biblical Ballet Performance by Rina Nikova
Saturday, 26.9.1953, at 8.15 p.m.
"BANOT ALI SHUR"
 (Israel Art Dance Performance)
 Gertrud Kraus, Dora Bertolucci, Yarden Cohen, Tzila Kossler, Yehudit Oranstein, Shoshana Oranstein, Kotia Michaili and their Groups

Sunday, 27.9.1953, at 8.15 p.m.
"THE ISRAEL VILLAGE IN DANCE AND SONG"
 A programme of choir singing and ensemble dancing presented by the Cultural Department of the Histadrut (General Federation of Jewish Labour)

Monday, 28.9.1953, at 8.15 p.m.
"THE ISRAEL ARMY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA"
 Conducted by Major Richman
 Israel and foreign composers
Tuesday, 29.9.1953, at 8.15 p.m.
"OUR PEOPLE'S HARVEST"
 Jewish Music of the Diaspora
 Kol Israel Orchestra (in conjunction with the Police Band)
 First performance in Israel of works by: E. Bloch, A. Krein, M. Castelnuovo-Tedesco

Wednesday, 30.9.1953, at 8.15 p.m.
"BINYANET HA'OMMA ASSOCIATION DAY"
Thursday, 1.10.1953, at 8.15 p.m.
"SONG OF SONGS"
 Oratorio by Marc Lavry
 Kol Israel Orchestra (in conjunction with the Police Band), Kol Zion Lagola Choir
 Conductor: H. Friedenthal
 Soloist: B. Halpern (Tenor)
Friday, 2.10.1953, at 8.15 p.m.
"THE ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA"
 Conductor & Soloist: Leonard Bernstein

Works by: Mendelssohn, Partos, Ravel, Beethoven
Sunday, 12.10.1953, at 8.15 p.m.
PERFORMANCE BY THE ISRAEL THEATRE GROUP
 directed by Sara Levi-Tamir
"From the Springs of Yemen"
Tuesday, 13.10.1953, at 8.15 p.m.
"ISRAEL DAY"
 Performance of Cantatas by Israeli composers: J. Tal, H. Jacoby, E. Amirou & O. Partos

Kol Israel Orchestra (in conjunction with the Police Band), Kol Zion Choir
 Conductor: H. Friedenthal
Wednesday, 14.10.1953, at 8.15 p.m.
"FROM DAN TO EILAT"
 A programme presented by Kol Zion Lagola Music Department
CLOSING OF THE EXHIBITION

A Sick Man in the Desert

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HAIFA
 1,000 sq.m. land at IL-60.
 Level ground 400 metres above sea level, overlooks Emek Yezrael, Emek Zvulun and the Mediterranean Sea, also Sabina, Kiryat Bialik near Haifa, and Rehov Ya'acov.

ROAD AND BUS SERVICE TO THE SPOT

Payment by instalment possible

Land deeds ready. Apply:

"Pninin"

18 Rehov Liffonkum, 2nd floor, room 5, Tel Aviv, P.O.B. 2045, (19-1). Sundays open also from 5-7 p.m.

'The Conquest of the Desert'

is not a new slogan for the Keren Hayesod. This has been our motto and has guided our reconstruction activity since 1921.

Keren Hayesod
The United Israel Campaign

Sightseeing Expansion Plans Outlined

TEL AVIV, Monday. — The first annual Sightseeing Ltd. staff banquet was held in the private dining hall of the Sharon Hotel this week, with Sightseeing Ltd. Directors, Managers, office staff, and bus personnel, from all Sightseeing branches, in attendance. The Directors, Messrs. A. L. Drucker and A. H. Goldberg, outlined the year's progress, during which time Sightseeing Ltd. has become the leading Sightseeing Carrier in the country, having transported thousands of Sightseers on Sightseeing Tours from Metulla to Sodom.

On behalf of their Canadian Associates, Messrs. Israel Investments (Canada) Ltd., all Sightseeing personnel were congratulated on their excellent work in the development of successful tourism in Israel.

During the course of the evening, the directors outlined vast expansion plans for the coming year, which would promote Israel as one of the leading tourist countries. Special Sightseeing programmes are being prepared for visitors to the Macabiah and "Conquest of the Desert" Exhibition, enabling the visitors to see the country in luxury Sightseeing Buses leaving from Sightseeing Offices in Tel Aviv, Rehov HaYarkon. (Telephone 3310), and Haifa, 4 Rehov Safad, (Telephone 5248). (Adv.)

LEGEND

1	Ticket Office
2	Information
3	Police
4-21	Jerusalem Pavilion
22-23	W.C.
24-25	Israel Pavilion
26	MAIN BUILDING
27	Vestibule — Information (Gr. Fl.)
28	Post Office (Gr. Fl.)
29	Souvenirs & Gifts (Gr. Fl.)
30	Cinema (Gr. Fl.)
31-34	Foreign & Governmental (Gr. Fl.)
35	Elia Israel
36-38	U.N.O. Agencies (Gr. Fl.)
39	El Al
40-41	International Communications Services (1st Fl.)
42-43	Health & Welfare Institution (1st Fl.)
44-45	Exhibition Offices (2nd & 1st Fl.)
46	Art Exhibit (Mes. Fl.)
47	W.C. (Mes. Fl.)
48	Concert Hall
49-50	Public Services (Gr. Fl.)
51	Exhibition Offices (Gr. Fl.)
52	W.C. Basement
53	Restaurant
54	Bookshop & Newspapers
55-56	Labour Federation
57-58	Mirabai & Hapoel Hamizrahi
59-60	Foreign firms represented by Hamashbir Hamizrahi
61	Katzer, Fraser, Israel
62	Alliance Tires, Israel
63	Fokker, Holland
64	Volvo Sweden
65	Alfa Romeo
66	Spirax France
67	Meadow France
68	Tramobile USA
69-70	Communications Section Pavilion
71-72	Home Products I. Pavilion
73-74	Home Products II. Pavilion
75-76	Carmel Mirabai
77-78	Consolidated Near East Co.
79-80	Agriculture Section Pavilion
81	W.C.
82-83	American War Rel. Corp.
84-85	Karlstadt Austria
86-87	Mayer Italy
88	Rosgold Israel
89	Lemagnere France
90	Shiboleth Israel
91	Feldman Israel
92	General Tires Israel
93	Hydroponics
94	Engineering & Manufacturing Co. Israel
95	Olami Israel
96	Lavdim Israel
97	Jacobson Israel
98	Harifolia Israel
99	Mesco-Tulcor France
100-101	Gore & Bruce Sweden
102	Hedlund Sweden
103-104	Swedish Tools Section Pavilion
105-106	Building Section Pavilion
107	Swiss Pavilion
108	Swiss Pavilion
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